

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 2, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, 10, and 15 have been objected under for containing informalities. In response to the objections, Applicant has amended those claims as directed in the Office Action. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are not objectionable and respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

In response to the rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 4 and 33. In view of those cancellations, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a)

Each of Applicant's claims has been rejected either under Kurachi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,181,436) alone, or under Kurachi in view of another reference. As is indicated above, however, nearly all of Applicant's claims have been amended through this Response. In

view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against the claims in a previous form and therefore requests that the rejections be withdrawn. Applicant briefly discusses the Kurachi reference and Applicant's claims in the following, however, for the Examiner's consideration.

Kurachi discloses a printer *managing* system and print *managing* method. Kurachi, Patent Title. In the Kurachi system and method, a client apparatus 1 sends a print job to a network printer 3. Kurachi, column 7, lines 16-17. *If* the client apparatus 1 requires the printer 3 to send "information" about the print job, "rough image data together with print job management information" is sent by the printer 3 to the client apparatus 1. Kurachi, column 7, lines 19-23. With the information received from the printer 3, the user can manage print jobs that are in the printer's queue by sending "operation instruction information" from the client apparatus 1 back to the printer 3. Kurachi, column 9, lines 2-4. Such "information" can comprise, for example, an "instruction to delete the print job" or an "instruction to stop or cancel the printing operation". Kurachi, column 9, lines 4-7. Accordingly, in Kurachi's system, *print management information* (not the print job itself) is sent from a printer back to a client apparatus for the purpose of enabling a user to manage print jobs that are pending on the printer. Furthermore, the client apparatus then sends *print job management instructions* (not the print job itself) back to the printer.

Applicant's claims describe various methods and apparatus for controlling printing such that a print job that has been received by a printer will only be printed if and when required information is provided to the printer from a portable computing device. For example, claims 1 and 6, as amended, provide as follows (emphasis added):

1. A method for facilitating secure printing, comprising:
receiving with a printer an untranslated document to be printed;
determining on the printer that the document cannot be printed in
its present form;
*transmitting the document from the printer to a nearby portable
computing device; and*
*receiving with the printer a print ready version of the document
from the portable computing device.*

6. A method for facilitating secure printing, comprising:
receiving with a portable computing device a protected document
from a nearby printing device;
unprotecting the document on the portable computing device; and
*transmitting the unprotected document from the portable
computing device back to the printing device so that the printing device
can generate a hard copy of the document.*

As can be appreciated from both of the above claims, printing is facilitated by a portable computing device that provides required information to a printer that holds a document to be printed. In the case of claim 1, the printer receives a translated version of a held document. In the case of claim 6, the printer receives an unprotected version of a held document.

Kurachi neither teaches nor suggests either of the above solutions. Instead, as is noted above, the communications that occur between Kurachi's client apparatus 1 and printer 3 after the printer receives a document pertain to *managing the print jobs in the printer's queue*, not enabling printing. In particular, Kurachi's printer 3 only provides a "rough image" representation of the print jobs in its queue to the client apparatus 1 to

provide an easy way for a user to manage those print jobs. Contrary to that stated in the Office Action, Kurachi's printer does not send a received "document" back to the client apparatus. Instead, Kurachi's printer only sends a *representation of the document* to the client apparatus to facilitate print job management. Similarly, contrary to that stated in the Office Action, Kurachi's client apparatus does not resend a "document" back to the printer. Instead, Kurachi's client apparatus only sends "*operation instruction information*" (i.e., management instructions) back to the printer.

Evidence of the fact that the Kurachi system only serves the print queue management function described above comes from Kurachi's own disclosure. For example, Kurachi states that the "rough image" representation of a print job is only sent to the client apparatus "*if the client apparatus 1 or 2 requires the network printer 3 to send the information of the print job*" (Kurachi, column 7, lines 19-21), and further states that if there is no such requirement, "[t]hen the print data is managed by the print job managing device 3d [of the printer] for each print job, and sequentially printed" (Kurachi, column 15, lines 38-40). Therefore, unlike Applicant's methods and apparatus, printing occurs in Kurachi's system and method regardless of whether the client apparatus communicates with the printer after the print job has been initially received by the printer.

In view of the above, it is clear that Kurachi does not teach the limitations of claims 1 and 6, or the other independent claims of the present application. In that none of the other cited references provide the missing teachings, Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

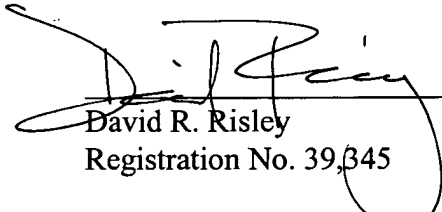
V. Canceled Claims

Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 19 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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1-6-06
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